

Amateur Radio during the current Global Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a part of our daily lives for several weeks now and will most likely continue to be for some time.

Canadians are being directed to stay home in order to limit their contact with other people and to “flatten” the coronavirus curve. As result, Amateur Radio club meetings and public events have been cancelled and clubs are investigating ways to keep in touch with their members by using existing or new Amateur Radio nets and/or internet-based communication tools such as Zoom, GoToMeeting, WebEx and many others.

The Canadian Red Cross has prepared a “Psychological First Aid Pocket Guide” (PDF file, 631 kB) which “provides emotional and practical support to individuals, families and communities who are having difficulty coping. It is about establishing a connection with people in a compassionate non-judgmental manner to bring calm and comfort.”

Some regions have already activated their Emergency Operations Centres to help coordinate agencies working the frontline and because of the current state of emergency declared by provinces, territories and municipalities. This does not mean that Amateur Radio Emergency Services are active or will be activated for this event. ARES provide services to mitigate potential communication failures and currently, despite the reports of concerns, there have been no reported issues.

Amateur Radio nets regularly connect individuals on a scheduled basis, but perhaps they can play additional roles during these difficult times such as helping isolated seniors keep contact with one another and allowing their colleagues and club members to help out when needed.

RAC is planning to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day this year on the air by inviting Amateurs in Canada and around the world to contact RAC official stations. The details are still being worked out and we

will provide more information about this event in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time of crisis. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones. Stay safe and, wherever possible, let us help one another during this extraordinary time.

-- Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA, President, Radio Amateurs of Canada

CANCELLED

We probably don't need to tell you this but all club activities, including the dinner meeting and ARES training, are cancelled for the month of April. We will wait to hear the announcements from government officials before resuming activities in May and beyond. There will be email and HI-Q notifications advising you. Environment Canada has also advised that all CANWARN training for 2020 has been cancelled.

Breaker 19 Net

Randy VA3GOT conceived and convenes the net every Thursday evening at 9 pm on the VE3BGA repeater (147.390). The name, of course, is a play on words and is intended to break the isolation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also a replacement (albeit a poor one) of our Thursday coffee meet at Boston. Although Randy acts as net control, it is very informal so power up your two meter rig and join us for a bit of fun.

N.W.O. Preparedness Net

Hosted by by net controllers Woody Linton, VE3JJA and Gordon Snarr VE4GLS runs daily at 15:00 UTC frequency 3.675 MHz LSB (ALPHA), then Fusion network. This net is to maintain the readiness of ARES operators and check on health and welfare.

LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

VP: Bob Hansen VE3RVA

Treasurer: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Secretary: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Board Member: Ed Baumann VE3SNW

Board Member: Mark Vaillant VA3MVR

Board Member: Mike Skillen VE3EDX

Board Member: John Plumridge
VE3FMT

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ

ARES Amethyst District

Emergency Coordinator

Warren Paulson, VE3FYN

CANWARN

VA3JMS John 767-3631

VE3RRP Karl

Public Service Events

VA3TBA Chris Chadwick

Accredited Examiners

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

flesnick@tbaytel.net

VE3VAI Lori Bedford (807) 630-7688
ve3vai@tbaytel.net

2020

ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. . Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to hqnewsletter@gmail.com

Amethyst District ARES

Providing emergency communications for Northwestern Ontario

Emergency Coordinators

Atikokan: Warren Paulson, VE3FYN (ARES DEC, Amethyst District)

Sioux Narrows: Woody Linton, VE3JJA

Fort Frances: Rod Davis, VE3RYD (ARES EC, Fort Frances & area)

Kenora: Chris Bigelow, VA3ECO (ARES EC, Kenora & area)

Dryden: Bob Ernewein, VE3YDN

Thunder Bay: Brad Harris, VE3MXJ (ARES EC, Thunder Bay & area)

Nets and Exercises

We conduct an open weekly HF net on 80 and 40 metres. The purpose of this net is to monitor regional propagation conditions, share information, and practice net procedures.

Time: Wednesdays at 21:30 UTC (4:30 pm EST, 3:30 pm CST)

Frequency: Primary 3.675 MHz LSB, Secondary 7.135 MHz LSB

<http://www.ve3rib.ca/nwoares>

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT (Mount Baldy) 147.060 (-600)

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

VE3BGA (Loch Lomond) 147.390, PL Tone 107

442.075 (+5 MHz) pl 100

144.390 APRS

STAYATHOME Special Event Stations

via RAC (edited)

Some countries around the world are now allowing Radio Amateurs to use special “STAYHOME” call sign suffixes.

Michael Shamash, VE2MXU, is using VC2STAYHOM to raise awareness for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic and global public health emergency. He is a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada and is based in Montreal.

“In Canada we are unfortunately limited to a 7-character prefix, hence the VC2STAYHOM without the last ‘E’. I would like to thank those at Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) for expediting the process and allowing me to get this call sign up and running within a couple of days, without the traditional 60-day wait period.

I will begin using the call on Monday, April 6, once the issued authority to use it begins, until the time it expires on Wednesday, May 6.

I am usually most active on 20m and 40m, split between SSB and FT8.

Michael will operate on HF Bands and QSL via Log-book of the World (LoTW).

In addition to Canada, Australia has permitted the Radio Amateur Society of Australia (RASA) to use the special call sign AX2020STAYHOME. At 14 characters, that may set a record for world’s longest call sign. Here are some other special event call signs:

8A1STAYHOME: Indonesia

9K9STAYHOME: Kuwait Amateur Radio Society

A60STAYHOME: United Arab Emirates

HZ1STAYHOME: Saudi Amateur Radio Society

In addition, Turkey has permitted the use TC1STAYHOME as a special event call sign for the awareness of COVID-19 pandemic.

“For a couple of weeks; stay home, stay safe please. We’ll be on air between March 27 and May 25. Hope this threat leaves our World before the date ends.”

Alan Griffin
MarCom Director
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Desk for Sale

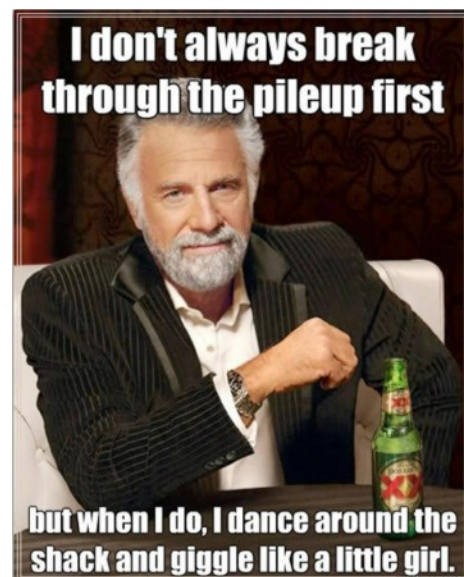
Randy VA3GOT has this “L” shaped desk for sale. The first fifty bucks (or best offer) takes it. May be seen and picked up at his work QTH.



New Club T-Shirts and Caps What the Well Dressed Ham will be Wearing in 2020



Members will be receiving our new shirts this year. Thank you to all that donated to the purchase and to you who also ordered hats. It is very much appreciated.



April

2020

Minutes for the

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Date: March 12, 2019

President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.

Guest Speaker: Karl Hamilton: LARC T-Shirts. Text will include "Ham Radio" Public Service" "Since 1934" A form was passed around for people to order their size. A page for a LARC cap order was also circulated. 19 caps were ordered by members. The club submitted an order for 24 (had to be a multiple of 6). These caps are customized with the owner's call sign stitched on the back. The spare caps have the call sign prepaid and may be purchased at any time from the club.

Social Break:

Treasurer's Report: by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Ed Baumann VE3SNW. Passed Unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to to amend the minutes as printed in Hi-Q to correct date of the 10 Mile Road Race to May 18th. Seconded by John Sacek VA3JMS. Passed.

Old Business:

Public Service Chris Chadwick VA3TBA public events coordinator

Past Events:

Sleeping Giant Loppet March 7, 2020: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

Upcoming Events

10 Mile Road Race: May 18, 2020, John Sacek VA3JMS

XTerra August

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS

No news

ARES Brad Harris V3MXJ, Thunder Bay EC Weekly ARES HF nets on Wednesdays still ongoing. monthly EOC net still ongoing. Firehall station being activated monthly.

Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,

Terry Stewardson VA3LU

YQT news, 10 Meter repeater almost done, Still troubleshooting UHF repeater for Loch Lomond.

Club Trailer: Bob Hansen VE3RVA

No news

LARC Revitalization: 20/20 (Randy Gottfred, VA3OJ) on going

Thunder Bay 50th Anniversary Looking into special event call signs/station for TBay's 50th anniversary

Alexander Henry VA3ICE Closed for Season

Hams From the Past No news

April 9th Dinner Meeting 6 PM Chicago Joe's cancelled April meeting was cancelled shortly after the club meeting due to the covid19 virus.

Field Day, June 2020

Pot Luck, a main meat dish will be supplied by the club. Randy McAllister has a large tent if needed

Donation to RAC Scholarship in memory of Bill Unger VE3XT

Still taking personal donations. On hold.

New Business

T-Shirt Motion

After the meeting an email was circulated to the membership with a motion by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP and seconded by Randy Gottfred VA3OJ to purchase t-shirts. 22 members responded and all supported the motion to pass.

LARC Laptop

No news

Permanent Exemption from Distracted Driver Legislation for Ham Radio in Ontario:

LARC will write a thank you letter to RAC and Ontario Section manager for their efforts to secure this exemption.

50/50 Draw: None

Adjournment moved by: John Sacek VA3JMS

Next Executive Meeting: To Be Announced, 7 PM, 55+

Next LARC Meeting: To Be Announced

And a Special Note...

during this time of social isolation if you find yourself in dire need of assistance, please ask for help. Many of us are on the VE3BGA repeater at 9 pm most evenings or monitoring during the day. Or contact Randy VA3GOT or myself by phone. We may be isolated but by pulling together we will all get through this strange time.ed.

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

March 2020 Treasurers Report

Opening Balance March 1, 2020 **\$3,085.66**

Income

1 membership & \$15 donation \$50.00

T-Shirts Donations \$350.00

Hats orders \$300.00

Total Income \$700.00

Expenses

Total Expenses \$0.00

Closing Balance March 31, 2019 \$3,785.66

<u>Trailer Account</u>		
	Previous Balance	1228.42
<u>Income</u>		
Interest		\$0.04
Total		<u>\$1,228.46</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Total Expenses:		<u>\$0.00</u>
	Balance in Trailer Account	<u>\$1,228.46</u>

Term Account

Opening Balance March 01, 2019 **\$2,069.93**

Interest **\$0.43**

Closing Balance March 31, 2019 \$2,070.36

**Karl Hamilton VE3RRP
Treasurer**



April 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 <small>Good Friday</small>	11	12 <small>Easter Sunday</small>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Remember the Breaker- 19 Net 9 pm on Thursdays		